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NATIONAL MARKET COVERAGE

TRANSCRIPT

FOR	PHILIP MORRIS	STATION	WNBC-TV a THE NBC TV NETWORK
PROGRAM	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	CITY	NEW YORK
DATE	01/05/93 6:30 P.M.	AUDIENCE	
SUBJECT	EPA SECONDHAND SMOKE REPORT		

BROADCAST EXCERPT

TOM BROKAW (ANCHOR): Smokers, be warned. You're being charged with killing others. The Environmental Protection Agency is about to release a report saying that secondhand cigarette smoke kills 3000 a year in America because of lung cancer. At the same time, a British anti-smoking organization said today passive smoke kills 140,000 annually in Europe. NBC's Robert Hager tonight has more on the EPA findings. Bob?

ROBERT HAGER (REPORTER): Tom, the report's about the smoke that floats off the end of cigarettes and is breathed by others, by non-smokers, and it finds that this so-called secondhand smoke is a first class cause of cancer.

For three years, the Environmental Protection Agency has been trying to get the findings out, but was delayed by lobbying from the tobacco industry and pro-tobacco members of Congress. Now EPA Administrator William Riley has signed off on the findings, that among adults, secondhand smoke causes lung cancer, more than 3000 deaths a year, and among children causes bronchitis and pneumonia, 210,000 cases a year, causes increased severity of childhood asthma, and among infants may increase the risk of SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

The report does not even address heart disease, which many doctors believe is the most dangerous consequence of smoke, but it's the lung cancer finding that caused EPA to call it a Class A cancer causer, putting it in the same category as asbestos, benzene, radon, and other potent cancer causers.

The tobacco industry took issue. Spokesperson Brennan Dawson:

BRENNAN DAWSON (TOBACCO INST): It will violate the agency's own guidelines for this kind of review and basically is a very cavalier treatment of a very controversial issue.

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HAGER: But in anticipation of the report, Washington's National Airport already banned all smoking just this week, and Thursday, the Baltimore Orioles are expected to become the first major league baseball team to ban smoking at their ballpark. The American Lung Association's Fran Dumelli expects more.

FRAN DUMELLI (ALA): We'll see that eventually we'll have a federal standard that bans smoking in the work site. We'll soon see that almost anywhere that people generally go for pleasure or business will be smoke-free.

HAGER: And that was the point of this whole exercise, to give the government and private employers one more scientific reason to further restrict smoking and protect those who choose not to smoke. Tom?

BROKAW: Thank you, Robert.

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